

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 13580 01 OF 02 131518Z

44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 116534

O R 131505Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1082

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 13580

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PFOR US UK FR UR GW GE

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR EXCHANGE OF TELEGRAMS ON
QA ANNIVERSARY

REFS: (A) BONN 13394; (B) STATE 193366; (C) BONN 13009

1. BONN GROUP MET AUGUST 13 TO HEAR FURTHER FRENCH
INSTRUCTIONS ON SOVIET PROPOSAL AND TO DISCUSS A
POSSIBLE TEXT FOR A QUADRIPARTITE EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES
ON QA FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

2. FRENCH REP (LASSUS) REPORTED THE FOLLOWING AS
"VIEWS OF SAUVAGNARGUES:"

-- UK VIEWS DO NOT APPEAR TO BE DECISIVE AND
FRANCE WISHES AN EXCHANGE; AND

-- THE BONN GROUP SHOULD PROCEED WITH WORK ON
TEXT.

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PAGE 02 BONN 13580 01 OF 02 131518Z

3. LASSUS SAID PARIS HAD REACTED NEITHER TO SCENARIO

SUGGESTED BY US (REF B) NOR TO TEXTS DEVELOPED IN
AUGUST 3 BONN GROUP MEETING (PARAS 9 AND 10, REF C).
HE ALSO HAD NO CLEAR GUIDANCE ON WHETHER THE ALLIES
AND SOVIETS SHOULD USE IDENTICAL TEXTS, BUT PARIS
SEEMED TO BE INCLINED TO PERMIT DIVERGENCES.

4. UK (HITCH) AND FRG (HENZE) REPS RESTATED EARLIER
NEGATIVE POSITION ON AN EXCHANGE. HENZE SAID MATTER
HAD AGAIN BEEN DISCUSSED WITH STATE SECRETARY
GEHLHOFF AND MINISTER OF STATE MOERSCH, WHO BOTH
CONFIRMED BONN'S PREFERENCE NOT TO ACCEPT THE SOVIET
PROPOSAL. COMMENT: WE THINK IT IMPORTANT TO NOTE,
HOWEVER, THAT HENZE'S REMARKS WERE CAREFULLY PHRASED
AS "AGREEMENT WITH THE UK VIEW" AND WE BELIEVE THE FRG
WOULD ULTIMATELY ACQUIESCE WITHOUT DEEP RESENTMENT
IN A QUADRIPARTITE EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES. END COMMENT.
HENZE ADDED THAT MOERSCH WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE THE
FRG ELECTION CAMPAIGN CITED TO THE SOVIETS AS THE
REASON FOR AN ALLIED TURNDOWN (SEE PARA 1, REF A).

5. US REP INDICATED HE HAD NO FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS
BUT, SINCE AN EXCHANGE MAY YET TAKE PLACE, BONN GROUP
SHOULD WORK ON TEXTS. HE RECALLED ALL POINTS ARGUING
IN FAVOR OF IDENTICAL SUBSTANTIVE TEXTS. LONG DIS-
CUSSION RESULTED IN GENERAL DIVISION OF UK AND FRG
REPS FAVORING A BARE BONES TEXT ON LINES OF EARLIER
UK DRAFT (PARA 10, REF C), WHILE US AND FRENCH REPS
FAVORED DRAFT ON LINES OF EARLIER US PROPOSAL
(PARA 9, REF C).

6. COMMENT: OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT LONDON AND BONN
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PAGE 01 BONN 13580 02 OF 02 131528Z

65
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 116677

O R 131505Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1083

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USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 13580

EXDIS

WILL NOT RESIST BITTERLY IF WE SHOULD CONCLUDE, AS
PARIS HAS, THAT AN EXCHANGE SHOULD TAKE PLACE. ALL
REPS AGREE THAT US TEXT CONTAINS NO HARMFUL ELEMENTS
AND WOULD PROBABLY BE EASIEST FOR MOSCOW TO BUY
BECAUSE IT INCORPORATES SOVIET POINTS. FRG AND UK
ARE OF VIEW, HOWEVER, THAT PRESENT CLIMATE CALLS FOR
AS UNEMBELLISHED A TEXT AS POSSIBLE.

7. AFTER THE ABOVE WAS DRAFTED, THE FRENCH HERE TOLD
US THAT THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN LONDON HAD GAINED
THE IMPRESSION FROM A CONVERSATION WITH HIBBERT THAT
THE BRITISH POSITION WAS ACTUALLY QUITE FLEXIBLE AND
THAT THE BRITISH WOULD BE PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH AN
EXCHANGE IF THE US AND THE FRENCH CONTINUE TO WANT ONE.
THIS REINFORCES OUR IMPRESSION REPORTED ABOVE THAT WE
CAN PROCEED WITH DRAFTING AND WILL BE ABLE TO GET
AGREEMENT TO AN EXCHANGE. NONETHELESS, AS WE INDICATED
IN REF (A), AND DESPITE THE CURRENT EFFORTS BETWEEN
THE FRG AND THE GDR TO EASE BORDER TENSIONS, THE MEMORY
OF THE TWO RECENT BORDER SHOOTINGS WILL NOT BE QUICKLY
FORGOTTEN AND THE POLITICAL REACTION HERE MAY BE MORE
SENSITIVE THAN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN WHEN WE ORIGINALLY
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PAGE 02 BONN 13580 02 OF 02 131528Z

PLANNED SUCH AN EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES.

8. REQUEST GUIDANCE.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 13 AUG 1976
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Disposition Authority: ShawDG
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